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STUDENT CHARGED AS ACCESSORY TO KLENNER

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

Authorities say a Reidsville college student indicted as an accessory in a triple murder believed survivalist Frederick "Fritz" Klenner was a CIA agent on a mission to kill major drug dealers.

A Forsyth County grand jury indicted 21-year-old Ian Perkins on accessory charges Monday, but District Attorney Donald Tisdale said he would not oppose a probationary sentence for Perkins because of his vital role as informant in the case.

"He's responsible for probably making the case and for putting his life on the line, but he does have some culpability," Tisdale said.

The grand jury spent nearly four hours deciding whether to indict Perkins, a philosophy major at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va. He later was released under a \$25,000 unsecured bond.

Tisdale said Perkins admitted he drove Klenner to Winston-Salem May 18 and later took him back to Reidsville, but said Klenner had convinced him he was a CIA agent after dangerous drug traffickers.

Perkins dropped Klenner near the home of 85-year-old Hattie Newsom, who was murdered that night along with her son Robert, 65, and his wife Florence, 63. Florence Newsom was Klenner's aunt.

Tisdale said Perkins also helped Klenner dispose of evidence after the slayings, but never knew who the real victims were until police told him.

"It was like 'lights on' time," Tisdale said. "He was terrified at that stage."

Police believe Klenner killed the Newsoms and two other people because they were allied against his first cousin, Susie Newsom Lynch, in a custody fight over her two young sons.

Klenner, 32, and Lynch, 39, died June 3 when their van exploded during a police chase in Greensboro. An autopsy later showed Lynch's sons John, 10, and Jim, 9, were fed poison and shot just before the explosion.

Tisdale said information led police to Perkins, who agreed to tape his conversations with Klenner after he learned their suspicions about him.

"When he finally realized the truth, he was upset," Tisdale said.

Reidsville residents said Klenner and Perkins had been close friends for years. "Ian looked up to Fritz like an uncle," said neighbor Mary Gillie.